

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 1-186 are pending in the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner has determined that there are five distinct inventions in the above-identified patent application, and has required restriction to one of those inventions, as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-15, 27-37, 53-62, 94-108, 120-130 and 146-155, drawn to an operator interface for interactive television.

Group II: Claims 38-44, 63-69, 131-137 and 156-162, drawn to linking newsgroup messages to external information resources.

Group III: Claims 16-26 and 109-119, drawn to user notification of new newsgroup messages.

Group IV: Claims 45-52 and 138-145, drawn to searching for data within a program guide.

Group V: Claims 70-93 and 163-186, drawn to creating messages for display to others.

Applicant's Election

Applicant hereby elects the invention of Group I (claims 1-15, 27-37, 53-62, 94-108, 120-130 and 146-155) for examination.

Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the inventions of Groups II-V (claims 16-26,

38-52, 63-93, 109-119, 131-145, and 156-186) in one or more divisional applications.

Respectfully submitted,

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